

whether such a periodical should be open to direct contributions from others than the divisional force and those in the state experiment stations working in concert with them. Particularly technical articles like Lord Walsingham's seem out of place, and it would be hard to justify them, when there are plenty of openings for their publication and they have only a very indirect bearing on economic entomology. Were such articles omitted, the periodical would certainly gain in character, and as it is, quite apart from its value on the purely economic side, no entomological periodical in the world is so rich in interesting and varied notes on the habits of insects.

Apropos of the "jumping-bean" which is twice mentioned in this number of *Insect life*, once in the answer to correspondents and again in the proceedings of the Entomological society of Washington, it may be well to call attention to a recently published foreign paper on *Carcocapsa saltitans*, and on another and nearly allied moth, *Grapholitha motrix*, which causes similar movements in the fruit of *Colliguaya brasiliensis* in Uruguay: the article, by Dr. Berg of Montevideo, will be found in the *Anales de la Sociedad científica argentina*, vol. 31. The new moth is particularly interesting since the motor power in Dr. Riley's new jumping-bean is recognized by him as also a *Grapholitha*.

Kolbe's Introduction to the knowledge of insects is so good that one must scold at its slow appearance. Begun in 1889, it has only reached its sixth number, and to judge by the scheme laid down in the prospectus it is not a quarter finished; we hope it is not, for though we find some oversights, it contains a rare collection of facts and some very interesting discussions; the present number deals with the structure of the legs and of the abdomen; the account of the ovipositor and of the claspers seems rather meagre though possibly more is to be given in the next part.

A MOULTING-HABIT OF LARVAE OF PLATYSAMIA CEANOETHI.—In watching a brood of ceanoethi larvae, which are living on wild cherry, my attention has been drawn to a habit, noticed at each moult, and which I have not seen in other Bombycid larvae. When first becoming quiet the larva spun a loose web to the twig just in front of its head, at a short distance. When the mask had fallen and the skin split in moulting, the larva grasped this loose web with its first pair of feet, and pulled itself along by it, till all the feet were free and could cling to the silk. Then moulting proceeded by the usual contraction and expansion of the muscles. This was done by every larva at every moult.

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A "Manual of North American Butterflies" by C. J. Maynard has just been published by DeWolfe, Fiske, & Co. of Boston. It is an octavo of over 200 pp. with ten plates and numerous figures in the text, and describes more than 600 nominal species. The first thing which strikes one on looking it over is the total absence of the slightest allusion to any of the early stages of butterflies, excepting that a single chrysalis is figured. The only reference to the fact that they have a history—a history the study of which forms the chief charm and interest in these insects, and the one thing to which all novices should be pointed—is in some such curt statement as "occurs in June and July." Not even a single reference either general or particular is given to show that such life-histories are known; we believe the word "larva" or "caterpillar" does not appear beyond the third page where the body of the work begins. The second thing we notice, considering that the book "is intended for the use of the tyro as well as for the advanced student," is the absence of a single table to distinguish the different genera of a family, or the different species of a genus. Thirty-five genera of Nymphalidae, for instance, to be distinguished by the tyro with no other